



*Nominated by Texas A&M Ag Economics Department*

(Washington, D.C.) -- Today the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) recognized Congressman Chet Edwards (TX-17) as a "2009 Friend of C-FARE and Agricultural Economics" for his support of economic policy that benefits agriculture, natural resources, food and nutrition.

C-FARE Chair, Dr. Jon Brandt from North Carolina State University stated, "Our profession is grateful to Congressman Edwards for his continued appreciation of economic analysis to improve public policy."

Edwards said, "I am proud to support American agriculture and the vital role that our farmers and ranchers play in feeding and clothing our nation. It is important that U.S. economic policy supports agricultural research that enables American producers to remain competitive in a global market."

Dr. John Nichols from Texas A&M University, who presented the honor to Congressman Edwards, stated "Chet has been an ardent supporter of funding for agricultural research and innovation throughout his tenure in Congress." Nichols added, "Early in his career he recognized the importance of agriculture, not only to his constituents in Central Texas, but to a nation founded on its hardworking principles."

This year, Edwards secured \$17.7 million for 22 important farming, forestry and animal health research programs conducted by the Texas A&M System. He has also included \$16 million in the House passed 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill for A&M Ag research.

"The innovative agriculture research at Texas A&M plays a key role in ensuring that Americans have access to the safest, low cost food supply in the world," Edwards said.

The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural economics profession. Agricultural economics is the study of the economic forces that affect the food, fiber and fuel industry from the producer and rural communities to the agribusiness and the consumer.